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BARNEY SANDERS OF MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA, PCPA

INTERVIEWEE: BARNEY SANDERS

INTERVIEWERS: HARVEY SCHWARTZ, CONOR CASEY

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[00:00:00] **HARVEY SCHWARTZ:** This is Harvey Schwartz. I'm in Long Beach, California. This is part of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association ILWU Oral History Project. I'm with Barney Sanders. Today is September 18, 2017.

[00:00:27] **BARNEY SANDERS:** That's correct.

[00:00:30] **HARVEY:** Barney, can you tell us when you were born and where you were born?

[00:00:33] **BARNEY:** I was born in the U.K. in 1947. My parents took me to New Zealand as a 12-year-old. I stayed there until I was 19, and I went to Australia. Then I worked around a few different jobs, and I decided to go back and look at the U.K. because I wondered whether my dad had made the right decision. So, I hitchhiked overland all the way, through countries you can't get into now, like Afghanistan and Iran and some weirdo places, places in the world which are beautiful which are now spoiled, like Bali when it was untouched.

Go up to the U.K., looked around, seen the relatives and, hmm. Okay. Got a ship and sailed back for the West Indies, Panama, Tahiti, Fiji. [?Seen Dad in years?] He says, "Are you staying?" I said, "Come down to Australia. That's where the future is."

Then I worked around different jobs there underground. Worked in the mines, I worked on the space base on the project for the Americans in Alice Springs at Pine Gap, and then I finished up on the waterfront. And after being on the waterfront for a few months, Jimmy Donovan and [unintelligible] on the committee came to me and said, "We want you to become a card-carrying delegate." I said, "Hey, I'm the johnny-come-lately." They said, "No, you've been talking the old guys down in the pit"—which we was working—"and we've got our eye on you, so we want you to do this." And I said, "Well, okay." Then, within six months of that, I was on the—we had the hiring hall in those days. It's gone now, but it was run by the ASIA, Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority, and the employers' group called SEAL, Stevedoring Employers of Australia Limited, and they [unintelligible] from the pool to build up to be permanent labor. So I was in there, and then I finished up as a representative in the SEAL committee as well as working, which was our input into how things [were done]—the pickup was done, the points system, equalization, etcetera.

But then the hiring hall disappeared, and eventually we all were company employment. I worked Sydney for a few years, and then I transferred to West Australia. I still liked moving around. I'd done some mobile travels for [unintelligible] jobs down at Port Kembla, and then I said, "Now, I have a permanent job [?coming over?] from the West." So I went to the West. Transferred, did eight years there.

Got involved. I was president of the [?Job Delegates?] Association over there. Got involved with some quite important stuff regarding levels of exposure to radiation to our members, which finished up with a nuclear physicist doing some research on. Yeah, it came out that our guys were handling this mineral stuff that was called malachite. We got some readings done and it was 70 microsieverts an hour in the stacks and 23 microsieverts an hour on the gantries. The next thing was the permissible [unintelligible] for a radiation worker is 2.5 microsieverts an hour. So it blew the lid off it. These are the sort of things I was involved in.

But then it didn't finish there, because they had to change the whole process of handling this material. But then we asked, "What are you doing with the tailings?" This went to the Public Health Department because they had to empty out the terminal and store it elsewhere, and bring it in by rail under the cranes and do the job. Well, we found out what they were doing with the tailings. They'd used them as landfill in schoolgrounds and sportsgrounds. Well, the kids are more susceptible because their organs are growing. So what happens is it's not the cells it kills, it's the cells it mutates. So, bang! Then they had a big dig-up, cleaned it all up and so on, but [?it's a standing quarry?] .

That just comes out of how at work relates back into the community. That was just one of the major incidents that I was involved in. Then I worked there for a few years, and then I transferred to come up to Tasmania, so I just went there. Same scenario again. Worked in the different ports and on the committee job there and so and so.

Then I said, "I want to finish up where it's warm," so I transferred up to Brisbane and that's where I finished. Had 36 years in the industry. Retired in 2009. In that period of time of working in the industry, our rank and file—I listened to it this morning—our rank and file actually [?form?] job committees. We do the negotiating for EBAs [enterprise bargaining agreements] . We have an official come in—as you would Big Bob or somebody—we have one of our officials come in as well with us, and then we'll sit down. Because we know how the job works. We're the hands-on guys. So we broker the deal, we argue with the boss and so on.

The last one I did was the EBA when P&O Ports sold out all the terminals around the world to DP World, Dubai ports. We finished up brokering. We thought they were going to treat us like they treat the hard labor in the Middle East, but they got a bit of a shock. But, yeah, that's my birth pedigree, and I was very fortunate in 75 when the All Ports Conference was on at Sydney, and when word from Portland, Oregon came down, and I found out he'd since passed away [unintelligible] from Fiji, Raef Ferguson [?he was on?] dockworkers and a couple of others. Last but not least, who else would be there? Harry Bridges. So I got to meet the man and we

had a big day—one day, a [?lay day?] in the middle, like you have—and so I was told to grab a car, grab Harry, [?bill?] kiwi guys and [?lay on the land?] the official with us in the other car, and we went up the country for a day too—journalists who used to write for the Maritime Journal. And we had a big barbecue gathering, a day of sitting around there. Man, to a young guy like me, this was educational stuff, learning off the old guys. You got two of these [points to his ears] , and the reason you’ve got two of these and one of those [points to his mouth] is you’ve got to use these [points to his ears] more. That’s the go. [?Now?] the past and the future.

[00:06:29] **HARVEY:** What do you remember Harry saying?

[00:06:31] **BARNEY:** We were talking about—he said, “You guys, what you have done, we’ve chased wages to a degree. You fellows have worked more on conditions, and we need to go and work on that as well.” And so there was a big conversation around that sort of scenario, and superannuations and other benefits and bits and pieces.

[00:06:49] **HARVEY:** What year would this have been?

[00:06:51] **BARNEY:** That was 1975. Yeah, the All Ports Conference in Sydney.

[00:06:58] **HARVEY:** Well, since you’re kind of doing your main line of your career, you became President at some point of the Pensioners?

[00:07:05] **BARNEY:** Yeah. When I finished up in 2009—after 36 years working—straight away they said, “Here’s your life membership.” I went on straight up to the Pensioners first meeting and was there for a few weeks or so, and they said, “Look, we’d like you to take on the position of Assistant Secretary, because we had our Secretary and we had our Treasurer, and, of course, some of these guys go away at times and that and can’t be at all the meetings.” I said, “Yeah, all right.” So I did that. Then, with a few more months down the track, the guy who was the President, he said, “Well, I’m moving up the coast because I want to be with my family.” So they said to me, “We’d like to nominate you for the President’s job.” I said, “Well, what happens with the Assistant Secretary?” They said, “Well, we’ll roll them into the two, so you’ll be the President and still retain the Assistant Secretary position, and then add Treasurer also packed in.” So I became Secretary-Treasurer, and that’s where we were at. And then it’s just gone from there. I’ve just been President and I’ve attended a few of the conferences, my first time I ever seen the union doing this.

[00:08:18] **HARVEY:** Do you have recollections of Tas Bull?

[00:08:21] **BARNEY:** Yeah, I knew Tas. We were just talking about him with a guy down there. We used to dine up at his favorite restaurant, the Captain [?Tie?] . I actually flew down from Brisbane to Tas’s funeral that year. Bit of a character, Tas. He said, “I don’t know how I got this because what I’ve got is what smokers get in the throat.” And that’s what got him. He said, “And I don’t smoke.”

Actually, Anders, his son—I know Anders—he’s working out of Tasmania on the ferries. And his granddaughter, Alicia Bull, she’s working for the union, too, out of the Port of Devonport. So, yeah, I had a relationship with Tas. Little fellow with foot-to-foot type thing. Yeah, he was a bit of a showman, but great—done a lot of good work with [?AFEDA?] with Africa and benefits and stuff like that. I went down to the dedication. They’ve got a Tas Bull memorial wall in Melbourne in the branch down there and it’s dedicated to Tas and the good work he did, and we had a memorial thing down there as well.

[00:09:23] **HARVEY:** What about Paddy?

[00:09:25] **BARNEY:** Paddy Crumlin?

[00:09:25] **HARVEY:** Yeah.

[00:09:26] **BARNEY:** Yeah, old Paddy [unintelligible] . You see, [?A-AIR industry?] was two separate ones. There was the Seamen's Union and a Waterside Workers Federation, or as you call them, longshoremen. What happened was we then merged, and then Paddy sort of was the Assistant Secretary, and then he come up and he finished up in the position he's in now. So, I know Paddy. We speak [unintelligible] . Like all union officials, we don't always agree. Hey, this is about the great debate. If we all sat there and just nodded, we wouldn't achieve anything. It would be a naughty dog show. But you've got to have different points of conjecture, and then you'll come to the collective decision and it will be made by the rank and file. So, yeah, that's how it operates.

[00:10:09] **HARVEY:** Do you remember having any place where you disagreed with Paddy?

[00:10:14] **BARNEY:** It was only a minor thing over a guy I was representing. And Jimmy Donovan stepped in because Jimmy could [?unintelligible] —and I said, "That's all right." It was at the Tas Bull memorial dedication." [laughing] I said, "I represent this guy because he's a member of the union. He might be a lazy bugger, he might be [unintelligible] , but I like him more than I like the boss. So, while he's a financial member of this union, I'll represent him to the best of my ability." That's the only real words really we ever had. It was storm-in-a-teacup stuff, you know.

[00:10:50] **HARVEY:** Were you a waterfront worker at the time of the merge in 1993?

[00:10:54] **BARNEY:** Oh, yeah.

[00:10:55] **HARVEY:** You were a longshore worker?

[00:10:57] **BARNEY:** Yeah.

[00:11:00] **HARVEY:** What did you think about the merger? Did you think that was a good idea?

[00:11:02] **BARNEY:** Oh, my word!

[00:11:04] **HARVEY:** How come?

[00:11:05] **BARNEY:** Because unity is strength, do a degree. And we've always had a commonality with the Seafarers. Their politics were the same. Guys in the Socialist Party, guys in the Communist Party, guys in the Labor Party were all left-wing, and a lot of their struggles were the same sort of thing—their conditions, our conditions and that. This wasn't just the only merger we did. We had a separate branch in Sydney, the Sydney Mechanical Branch, and I worked on that. They said to me, "Will you get a forklift ticket?" I said, "Well, I'm in the gang, I'm doing this." They said, "Well, you would only come out for the day. We'll use you up."

The idea is you get back to your gang, but the intent was to bring the Sydney Mechanical Branch and the Sydney Waterside Workers and merge them into one. So we did, so there was a merger. And then we took in the Painters and Dockers, we took in the Shipwrights. So merger is nothing new to us. And this is when speaking about an up-and-coming merger with the CFMEU [Construction, Forestry, and Maritime Employees Union] . There's a little bit of conjecture and hype around it. "Oh, we'll lose our identity. They'll be this and so and so." It's a name. What's in a name? We'll have [unintelligible] and this, that and the other, but some people—[unintelligible] story. But change. Whoa! Hang on a minute! People are not liking to rush into change. They don't embrace it, which is fair enough. You've got to sit back and think about it, but in the long run, work it through, and I think it's a good one. There are some people with personalities involved, like there is with everything. But in the long term, it's about the collective, and the betterment of what's the overall good, us

within the industry of maintaining our position. Because if we sit around and get pinged off one at a time, we aren't any good to anybody.

[00:13:02] **HARVEY:** In the United States, the West Coast Seamen had a different worldview from the longshoremen. They've never joined, and it's partly because of the different worldview. To make a long story short, they're more right-wing and we're more left-wing.

[00:13:15] **BARNEY:** Yeah.

[00:13:15] **HARVEY:** How do you account for the fact that the Seamen were left-wing and Waterfront Workers as well in Australia? It's a little bit different tradition. It's stronger in one sense.

[00:13:34] **BARNEY:** I think it's because just the ideology of their politics and working class. Like Australia, it's gone—wow, I can't believe it now—a lot of people have conservative values. It's done as a working class country. People coming there, not much unlike your own country, built on a migrant population that were leaving their countries for betterment, to build a better life for themselves, a better life for their children and their children's children, and improve themselves, and that was it. But like I say, like in your country, too, they've changed. You've got people [unintelligible] . Hey, it's a different ballgame. And a lot of people—[unintelligible] younger people—when they come into the industry. Let's say we'll induct them in and we want just to speak to them about the history and the past. Anyway, they're a different breed. As Willie said this morning on the stage, they're not from a family-oriented background. They might be from a banker's son. They could be a boss's son. So you've got to get the message into them. But prior to that, our ideology was very working class in the same between the Seamen and the . . .

[00:14:50] **HARVEY:** How did the law change in any way to allow the banker's son to come in, as opposed to have it all, I guess, relatives or whatever?

[00:15:04] **BARNEY:** You can't have a discriminatory restrictive practice. I can't say, "I'm not employing you because you're a [unintelligible] ." That's just discrimination. You could get sued. But there had been just a general transition, fathers and sons and cousins and stuff like they went through here. Because you used to have to go before a board, and there would be an employee of the union and this, that and the other. And they decided—and [?Ginger Bramley?] , the President at the time of the Sydney Branch, was sitting at the end of the table, and the [unintelligible] and a couple of employers and quite a few questions [unintelligible] . And I looked at Ginger and said, "What do you think?" And Ginger said, "Yep, and got to do the medical." And I [unintelligible] because I'm not a father and son, I was an outsider. But the guy who was supposed to take the job didn't want it. He said to me, "Why don't you go down?" I said, "Oh, no." He said, "You can come back to [?point trade?] anytime. I'll speak to Ginger." So, yeah, I was an odd boy out. But, as you say, you can't discriminate.

[00:16:13] **HARVEY:** A very good overview. Much appreciated. I'd like to roll you back a little bit.

[00:16:16] **BARNEY:** Sure.

[00:16:17] **HARVEY:** How did you first get your first job on the waterfront, and what was the first day like?

[00:16:21] **BARNEY:** Man. I couldn't believe it. Went down to the ship.

[00:16:25] **HARVEY:** How old were you at this time?

[00:16:27] **BARNEY:** I might have been 26. And I'm unloading bundles. [?Latex?] coming out of nets, unhook them on the wharf. Boing, boing. I bounce around. I had a hand truck. You know the old hand trucks? I'd get

the hook, [unintelligible] the latex, bash along—I have a couple of [unintelligible] things on the wharf, into the ship and the [unintelligible] takes it off. That was my first job, and I’m shaking my head. I said, “Jesus.” And then, because being a [?pit pony?] as you recall, we was doing the bulkies, we were doing [unintelligible] of cement down the pit on the trays, [unintelligible] clay. Usually the ship’s gear in those days was an [?outside union purchase?] . It drops down on pallets of hides, which have been out on the apron behind, under the apron of the shed in the sun for about a week. [?Unintelligible] , maggots, stinking. You wouldn’t have wanted to have a drink the night before. You’d be dry-retching and crook—crook is an Aussie term for sick.

Our issue then in those days is about conditions. We got two [unintelligible] , so you can imagine yourself doing dirty jobs and doing the [?grain?] and doing the hides and stuff. Unbelievable. As you said before, we improved the [?chemical?] from there. Negotiated dirt rights on the job—dust monies, freezer locker monies, stuff like that, all on the job Twenty cents here, [?praying?] money, 15 cents there. Then, as progressives came along, we negotiated all of those into a consolidated allowance. Because the boss also got a bit jacked off that we was having an argument on the job, too, so then we started rolling these things together—which was a smart move. Because when containerization got bigger and bigger and better, we weren’t doing these jobs, but we still got that [unintelligible] allowance and that consolidated allowance. It was rolled in it, you say.

Being ahead of the game, this is something Harry taught us as well. You’ve got to be thinking ahead. Now you’re looking in the rear vision mirror going that direction.

[00:18:36] **HARVEY:** Were there any strikes you were involved in?

[00:18:39] **BARNEY:** Man, there was the big lockout, the illegal sacking of their workers in 98—Patrick’s—and it went international, and we [unintelligible] the longshoremen of the West Coast here when the Columbus Canada was sent over here [unintelligible] packed by the scabs. Your guys said, “You can take that away.” It went to New Zealand, was unloaded by New Zealand union cargo for months, and then it was reloaded again and then shipped off. Yeah, [?it blows? blues?] like that. I’ve been in a few stoppages and a few safety issues.

[00:19:15] **HARVEY:** Can you describe [unintelligible] during the strike, and how you survived without an income?

[00:19:20] **BARNEY:** The thing was this. I’ve got to mention the credit unions there. We’ve got a credit union, and we always [?drum?] our guys up—“Borrow from our credit union, get your house, get your car [unintelligible] ”—so when the [blue?] was on, we just turned around, and with our financial credit union, we put a moratorium on the mortgage payments, interest payments, so they had roofs over their heads. Plenty of other unions came and supported us. But not all the Port was [?there?] , it was only Patrick’s. P&O Terminals were still working, some [?bulk and tin?] were working. So we funded the guys. We were levying them and helping out. It was a long haul, and we had some real tough times, but seven High Court judges in the finished ruling said five of our members had been illegally sacked. If we’d have [unintelligible] , this would have been the domino effect of the unions in Australia. And all the other unions knew this, so they were behind us.

And our international links helped magically. Really good. Without our internationalism, we’re nothing. You spoke about Mandela this morning. We had bans on the South African boats coming out of Africa, because they used to bring their South African champagne and other stuff—and asbestos—into Australia. We just said, “No, we’re not [?copping?] this.” So we put the bans on to support Mandela and the anti-apartheid regime and stuff like that.

[00:20:54] **HARVEY:** That's very helpful, and it reminds me to ask you about very close relationship between the MUA [Maritime Union of Australia] and the ILWU.

[00:21:06] **BARNEY:** Yep.

[00:21:07] **HARVEY:** Conor knows about it, I know about it, you know about it. Can you kind of outline it? Because this will be used by people in the future who may or may not know a heck of a lot about the history. Can you describe that closeness, and how that's worked and how it's progressed over time?

[00:21:22] **BARNEY:** I believe the closeness came through Harry being Australian, and coming from Melbourne and jumping ship here, that was the [unintelligible] type scenario. As I said, he was a great progressive thinker. And then, as different issues bobbed up between each other, the communication lines became open. It was logic, because we see the bosses as being international, global, and we had to start going down that road as well. And [?big blues—bad blues?] —get us closer together and make us stronger.

[00:22:18] **HARVEY:** How about Big Bob's [McEllrath] relationship with Paddy? They seemed to have developed this even more. I know it was always a good relationship, but it seems like it's been really great.

[00:22:28] **BARNEY:** Yeah, it is. I don't know too much about their relationship, to be honest—I'm not privy to that—but I know they have a good rapport. Because, as I said, there's so much commonality there in the issues. Like I sat there yesterday—I was privileged to be in on the executive meeting—and I'm listening to this, and we're virtually singing off the same song sheet. All the similar issues of the Medicare, the attacks on the working class and so on, and they want to cut back the welfare, they want to cut back on the employment in the human services department, which then makes it more difficult for people to get looked after, and take away, in the Medicare scenario.

A guy came up, the treasurer of the previous Liberal government, and he said, "The age of entitlement is over." I said, "Hang on a minute. What's this business about entitlement?" He was talking about pensions, and calling it welfare. Now, it's not welfare. It is actually an entitlement, because in the early years after around the Second World War, the Labor Party brought in a 7.5 percent tax. This was to give people an income when they retired, so they had something to live on. And then the [unintelligible] because all tax then was individually gazetted. It was roads, education and the pension type scenario. But in their wisdom, as time went by, these politicians decided they would roll us into consolidated revenue—one pot. Today, there would be a trillion dollars in that if that pension money was still there. It's gone. They frittered it away. They dibbed and dabbed it. So now they're saying, "The age of entitlement is over." No. The people today are still paying that 7.5 percent. A lot of them don't understand it. We've been down at Canberra and we lobbied politicians there the last election. We lobbied the Independents, we lobbied the minor parties, those in the Labor Party, some in the right wing with a social conscience we were able to get to. And their bills that they wanted to put through to reduce pensions, attack things, this, that and the other, we were able to stop it happening. It didn't get through the Senate.

And guess what happened? Like if I was stuffed up on the job, and did a bad thing like this guy, [Joe] Hockey, had done, that would be the end of my job, my career. So what do I do with that? Oh, we've got to get rid of him, do something with him. You got him. You know what they did with him?

[00:25:09] **HARVEY:** No.

[00:25:10] **BARNEY:** They said, "You can be the U.S. Ambassador. We'll send you to New York." [laughter] Hey! Plum job, big money. You just screwed it up, and you get a reward! You tell me, yeah. But then they put another guy in there, Scott Morrison. See, Hockey's idea was he said, "We should be like Hong Kong Chinese. You'll get out and burn out in war and you go back to the family and they'll look after you." Just this rhetoric,

you know? It was obscene. And this is what we're dealing with. We're fighting these fights—similar to what you're doing—having to listen to that.

The Medicare scenario. We've got a great national health scheme they want to turn that. They say, "Well, we'll move a payment"—for what we call preventative medicine and tests, like PAP smears, breast scans and all that sort of thing—"We'll be chopping those." What happens then is the fact that people say, "Oh, I can't afford to get that done." They become a bigger burden on the healthcare system because they get sick. They haven't picked up on it, so it's stupid. But these are the things we're fighting, to stop those changes as well.

[00:26:19] **HARVEY:** Yeah. You retired in '09.

[00:26:21] **BARNEY:** Yeah, 2009.

[00:26:21] **HARVEY:** Were you 62?

[00:26:25] **BARNEY:** You got it. Your math is good. [laughter]

[00:26:30] **HARVEY:** Something. Were you ever politically active beyond the union? It sounds like you're in community politics, but were you ever in left-wing politics at all?

[00:26:59] **BARNEY:** Oh, yeah. I was a member of the Socialist Party of Australia. We ran candidates in the state of Balmain. Donny Henderson from the Firemen and Deckhands Union. There's another union that merged, that one there. Yeah, we ran candidates and those things. But I'm no longer in any political party, and I'm back out there campaigning because we've got an election coming up in the state shortly. We've actually now just had an election in West Australia a while ago. We've got one of our members who is now in Parliament. We've got a foot in the door. We're going to do the same in Queensland. We've got an [unintelligible] David Greene, we're running him for a seat. We've got to swing 850-odd votes, but we'll get that seat. Because we've got to be in the game to make the change. There's no good looking from the outside in.

[00:27:46] **HARVEY:** When were you in the Socialist Party?

[00:27:48] **BARNEY:** Oh, it was back in Sydney with Jimmy Donovan, the fellows and all that, the waterfront branch of it. So what I've been doing knocking out there with David Greene of the Labor Party, people have said to me at the door, "Oh, you're with the Labor Party." I said, "No, I'm supporting this candidate. I ain't in any political party. I'm picking the best man for the job. When you go to the ballot box nowadays, this is the way I look at it. I'm voting for the lesser of the evils. Because, boy, some of the people in the Labor Party, they're political opportunists, you know. We've got to recognize and we've got to know." So that's how I tell people to vote. When they say, "Oh, this guy and that," I say, "Yeah, I'm voting for him."

[00:28:35] **HARVEY:** Speaking of politics, what was your impression and the impression of your mates when Mr. [Donald] Trump became President of the United States?

[00:28:45] **BARNEY:** Well, it was not real good. We couldn't believe it, the way he sat there. Not that I was an avid fan of Hillary [Clinton], but I thought it was, once again, the lesser of the evils. I preferred my namesake, Bernie Sanders. [laughter] Because I saw this guy from the outside as progressive-thinking, looking at education, looking at other things that were looking after the majority of the collected American people. But I really shouldn't comment on your politics because that's your business.

[00:29:23] **HARVEY:** Oh, I don't know. It's world business.

[00:29:26] **BARNEY:** Yeah, it's world business, but a lot of people don't like us interfering into their country's politics or commenting. But, yeah, I have done so.

[00:29:35] **HARVEY:** Sure, of course. When did you get married?

[00:29:42] **BARNEY:** I was married in 74, and after 25 years, we parted company. The kids were grown up and we went different directions. I was on my own for about five years and I met a nice lady. She worked for the Teachers Union and we got married and we've been married now since 98-99.

[00:30:06] **HARVEY:** What about your grown children? What do they do?

[00:30:10] **BARNEY:** One is in healthcare and the other one's in media stuff. I've got two stepdaughters. One's in the union working with the Teachers Union, and the other one's got a little business making clothes and women's activewear.

[00:30:33] **HARVEY:** Conor, do you have any questions?

[00:30:36] **CONOR CASEY:** I wonder if you could go into detail about specific international solidarity things. You mentioned the boat and refusing to unload scab cargo. Are there any other things that you can think of, collaborations?

[00:30:51] **BARNEY:** Just recently there was the Hutchison's sacking of our members by text [at] 11:00 at night. They guys and girls are at home and they get a text message on their phone. "Not required. You're finished. Don't come into work tomorrow." They selected the ones they wanted to get rid of, and this is Hutchison's, one of the big container conglomerates, and the richest guy in Hong Kong. And we said, "Well, this ain't going to happen." and a comment by Eric Abetz, who is one of the right-wing government people in Australia, he said, "Oh! This should be the benchmark for industrial relations." You know, these are the people you're dealing with.

Anyway, we put the blue on. None of the guys went to work the next day. And then, through our contacts with the IDC—the International Dockworkers Convention—started applying a bit of pressure around the different terminals around the world through internationalism, again, and, yeah, the [unintelligible] workers told us we had to get back in the gate and work. We ignored them. When I was asked by a television crew down on the job—because we were down there supporting, firing up the barbecues, feeding the guys and girls—and they said to me, "Ah, but you're in breach of the law [unintelligible]." I said, "Bad laws have got to be broken. If it's a bad law, you break it. We'll wait till we go down to the High Court and we'll fight it there." And we did. We finished up. We got [unintelligible] after a while, and we got the guys who wanted to get paid out, but we got them on an agreement that as soon as they rehired, they were the first back. They picked up more work. Those guys are back, and there's actually more labor in there than there was in the first place. So that was a good victory, a very good one.

[00:32:37] **HARVEY:** Do you remember the Liverpool Dockers situation?

[00:32:41] **BARNEY:** I do.

[00:32:41] **HARVEY:** Were you guys involved in that?

[00:32:43] **BARNEY:** Yeah, my mate, Jimmy Donovan, went out there for that. They were all over there supporting. But they were sold out by their own—not their leadership in Liverpool, but the leadership of like we've got the ACTU [Australian Council of Trade Unions]. What they've got in England is some trades [unintelligible], but the guy who was one of the honchos there, he didn't bring in the rest of the labor

movement to support them, which is what should have happened, and they got defeated, got robbed. That guy actually finished up in [?Gapman?] and got a [?knife through him?] . So, you know, when you see certain leadership, man, you've got to be—you know, we've had guys that I've worked with sit there on the Negotiating Committee and...